UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council, in thousandth resolution, extends UNFICYP mandate for six months; calls on parties in Cyprus to ensure no incidents occur along buffer zone and to cooperate fully with Force.

* Security Council expresses concern at blockading of UNPROFOR personnel by Bosnian Government forces, and placing of obstructions in Sarajevo area by Bosnian Serbs.

* Bosnian Government forces demand peace-keepers abandon three observation posts in Visoko area; Bosnian Serbs target UNPROFOR post in Gorazde and convoy near Sarajevo.

* Secretary-General, in address to World Affairs Council, stresses importance of relationship between United Nations and United States; cites common interest in promoting peace, development and democracy.

* United Nations to launch Home Page on Internet World Wide Web on Monday; service to provide user-friendly access to wealth of information on Organization.

* Two-day International Colloquium on Post-Conflict Reconstruction Strategies begins in Burg Schlaining, Austria.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for six months to 31 December. The Council called on the military authorities on both sides of the island to ensure that no incidents occurred along the buffer zone and to extend their full cooperation to the Force. It took that action by unanimously adopting its thousandth resolution.

Resolution 1,000 (1995) expressed concern about the modernization and upgrading of military forces in the Republic of Cyprus and the lack of progress towards a significant reduction in the number of foreign troops there. It urged all concerned to commit themselves to such a reduction and to

(more)

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a reduction of defence spending in the Republic, to help restore confidence between the parties and as a first step towards the withdrawal of non-Cypriot forces. The resolution called on both sides to enter into discussions with UNFICYP on the prohibition of ammunition or weapons, other than hand-held ones, along the cease-fire lines.

The Council regretted that the 1989 unmanning agreement had not been extended to cover all areas of the buffer zone where the two sides were in close proximity. It called on them to cooperate urgently with UNFICYP to that end. The Council requested the Secretary-General to keep the structure and strength of the Force under review with a view to its possible restructuring, bearing in mind the possible implications of an extension of the 1989 agreement.

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In a second meeting today, the Council expressed deep concern at the blockading by Bosnian Government forces of United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) personnel in the areas of Visoko, Gorazde, Gorni Vakuf and Kladanj. In a statement by President Detlev Graf zu Rantzau (Germany), it noted that those forces had placed mines outside the UNPROFOR camp in Visoko. The Council also expressed concern at the deterioration of the situation in around Sarajevo, and the obstruction by the Bosnian Serbs of freedom of movement and utility supplies to the city.

The Council condemned interference with humanitarian supplies and UNPROFOR's freedom of movement, stressing that all such actions were unacceptable. It demanded that all parties fully respect the safety and security of UNPROFOR personnel and ensure their complete freedom of movement to enable the Force to carry out its mandate. The Council called on the parties to enter into negotiations as provided for in resolution 998 (1995), and to agree without delay to a cease-fire and a complete cessation of hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Bosnian Government forces have demanded that Canadian peace-keepers withdraw from three observation posts in the Visoko area, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Canadians refused to comply with that demand. Government forces also halted three UNPROFOR resupply convoys in Central Bosnia.

Bosnian Serb forces yesterday directly targeted an UNPROFOR observation post in Gorazde 14 times, according to a United Nations spokesman. They inflicted no casualties among the peace-keepers, but destroyed a Land Rover. In Sarajevo, the Bosnian Serbs targeted an UNPROFOR convoy travelling over

Mount Igman, damaging another Land Rover. There were around 1,800 firing incidents in the Bosnian capital yesterday. An improvised rocket bomb landed near the city's television building, killing one civilian and injuring four.

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The relationship between the United States and the United Nations could be the most important relationship of the twenty-first century, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He said today that the two must stand together in a great common cause -- the cause of peace, development and democracy. He made those comments in an address to the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles.

The United Nations had in many ways been the creation of the United States, but had grown into a world Organization with its own identity, he continued. Today, the United States was immensely important to the United Nations, but the Organization could also be invaluable to it. Collective security, cooperation for development, and democratization were as much in the country's interest now as they had been fifty years ago. Those objectives would become even more important as the next century approached.

During the cold war, the United States had spent scores of billions of dollars for stability, development and democracy, the Secretary-General noted. The United Nations could now be employed in that work at a cost of about $7 per individual American per year. The United States could achieve far more for its money by working with the Organization. "Today one thing is clear: there is only one agenda," he stressed. "That agenda is both domestic and international, both local and global."

The Secretary-General was scheduled to leave Los Angeles for San Francisco, where he would participate in events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter. He was also due to deliver several addresses over the weekend. A spokesman said he would focus on such matters as the three-phase administrative reform programme being implemented by the Organization and the resulting efficiency gains. Those gains would result in savings of more than $35 million in the 1996-1997 biennium.

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The United Nations is going on-line with its own "Home Page" on the Internet World Wide Web. The service will be officially launched on Monday, to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Charter. It represents a user-friendly gateway to a wealth of information on the Organization. Featured will be the latest United Nations news, including the Daily Highlights; a pictorial history of the Organization with over 100

downloadable photographs, including those of the Secretaries-General; and a special section on the fiftieth anniversary observance.

With just a click on an icon, a Home Page user can take an electronic tour of United Nations Headquarters in New York, or get basic information about the activities of the United Nations system. Photographs of Monday's ceremony commemorating the signing of the Charter in San Francisco will be available the same day. Anyone with an Internet connection and a Web browsing programme can access the Home Page. The address is: http://www.un.org.

The Home Page will also include links to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) gopher on the Internet, as well as to the Web sites of other bodies in the United Nations system. United Nations news and documents, in text-only format, currently on the UNDP Gopher will continue to be available on that system.

This service complements the United Nations News Audio Information System (UNNAIS), which is a computer-based audio system available by telephone. News, features and reports from United Nations offices worldwide are available round-the-clock by dialing (212) 963-3777 on a touch-tone telephone. The Department of Public Information (DPI) has worked closely with the Electronic Services Division of the Office of Conference and Support Services to develop both the Home Page and the Audio Information System.

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A two-day International Colloquium on Post-Conflict Reconstruction Strategies began today in Burg Schlaining, Austria, following an organizational session in Vienna yesterday. The Colloquium has been organized by the Department of Development Support and Management Services of the United Nations Office at Vienna. It is supported by the Austrian Government as part of its observance of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary.

The Colloquium is discussing the capacity of the United Nations system to help countries recover and reconstruct following armed conflict. It aims to establish a framework for inter-agency collaboration, and to make recommendations for stand-by mechanisms. Participants will also discuss modalities of cooperation with bilateral donors.

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